

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3958

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

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AMCONSUL CALI

AMVJNSUL MEDELLIN 576

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 6559

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CO CU OAS

SUBJ: REACTION TO COLOMBIAN-CUBAN PIRACY AGREEMENT AND POSSIBLE
RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS

1. EDITORIAL ACH#POLITICAL REACTION TO THE COLOMBIA-CUBA ANTI-
PIRACY ACCORD, AND TO STATEMENTS BY PRES PASTRANA (BOGOTA 6463)
AND FONMIN VAZQUEZ POSTULATING PROMPT NORMALIZATION OF COLOMBIAN-
CUBAN RELATIONS, HAS BEEN UNIFORMLY FAVORABLE.

2. EL TIEMPO AND EL ESPECTADOR SAW THE ANTI-PIRACY AGREEMENT
AND THE EVENTUAL ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA AS POSIT-
IVE DEVELOPMENTS, ALTHOUGH EL TIEMPO BELIEVED THE CORRECT WAY
TO ACCOMPLISH THE LATTER GOAL WAS FOR THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED
TO ELIMINATE SANCTIONS, THUS ALLOWING VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS TO
PROCEED TO NORMALIZATION AT THEIR CONVENIENCE.

3. ON THE DAY AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT THE CUBAN DEL
WAS RECEIVED BY PASTRANA, TOGETHER WITH VAZQUEZ. THE CUBANS ALSO
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CALLED ON THE NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF REPS,

LUIS VILLAR BORDA. FOLLOWING THE VISIT, VAZQUEZ AND VILLAR BORDA EXPRESSED FURTHER SUPPORT FOR A SPEEDY NORMALIZATION OF COLOMBIAN-CUBAN RELATIONS.

4. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE COLOMBIAN REP IN HAVANA COMPOSED OF FABIO LOZANO SIMONELLI AND GUSTAVO GARCIA MORENO MET WITH FIDEL CASTRO ON JULY 23. THE CUBAN DEL IN BOGOTA ALSO CONFERRED WITH FONMIN VAZQUEZ EXTENSIVELY.

5. ALTHOUGH LOPEZ HAS PUBLICALLY REMAINED OUT OF DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE CUBAN ISSUE HE UNDOUBTEDLY HAS BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH DEVELOPMENTS. FOR EXAMPLE, FABIO LOZANO SIMONELLI, SENIOR MEMBER OF THE COLOMBIAN DEL TO HAVANA, IS A LIBERAL WHO IS KNOWN TO BE CLOSE TO LOPEZ.
VAKY

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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